

MISSION STATEMENT

The principal mission of the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) is the cost-effective coordination of emergency response with logistical assistance of its partner agencies of the Southern Area. This is accomplished through planning, communications, situation monitoring, projecting needs, and expediting resource orders between Federal Land Management Agencies, State Agencies, and other cooperators.

In addition:

SACC serves as the focal point for providing intelligence and logistical support relating to ongoing and anticipated incident activity for all Federal and cooperating State wildland fire suppression agencies in the Southern Geographic Area.

SACC facilitates the movement of resources between State Coordination Centers, while it ensures the state's continued fire suppression capabilities to support fire potential by monitoring weather and prescribed fire activity within the area.

SACC plays a significant role in providing logistical support to all-risk incidents such as hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters as well as human-caused, all-risk incidents.

SACC also responds to requests for support from other geographic areas through the National Interagency Coordination Center.

TOTAL MOBILITY

The SACC Center Manager has authority, through the Southern Area Multi-Agency Coordination Group (SAMAC), to move personnel and equipment throughout the Southern Area and to/from adjacent areas, to meet wildland fire preparedness or suppression needs, as outlined in the Interagency Agreement between the National Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U. S. Forest Service, and from the Administrators of the Southeastern and South Central (State) Forest Fire Protection Compacts (as set forth in Public Law 642).

PRIORITIES

When competition for resources exists within the Southern Area, the SACC Center Manager, or the SAMAC will establish priorities.

The standard criteria to be used in establishing priorities are:

- **Potential to destroy**
 - Human life.
 - Property and Resource Values.
- **Initial Attack.**
- **Escaped fires and emerging fires:** Units will be asked to describe the probability of meeting wildland fire objectives within the specified time frame documented in the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) to assist in determining priorities.
- **Support of ongoing incidents.**

Prescribed fires, fires managed for specific resource management objectives and wildland fires will receive the same consideration when the SAMAC provides decisions on the assignment of resources.

Requests for non-fire or "all-hazard" incident support will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the SACC Center Manager and the SAMAC, and a decision on dispatch/coordination system involvement will be made using the following criteria (these same criteria can be used as a checklist at the local level by State MAC Groups):

- Is the incident an emergency, extreme emergency, declared either an emergency travel authorized for non-exempt personnel? (For example, "compensable because it results from an event which could not be scheduled nor is the incident a planned "special event?"
- What is the anticipated magnitude and duration of this event?
- Is it appropriate for agency personnel/resources to assist in this incident?

- Are ground and aviation safety standards in place?
- Can the resources we've been asked to send safely operate on the incident?
- Is it expected to impact other agency or other Geographical Area resources and to what extent?
- Are there any laws or policies that would prohibit any Federal or State agencies from assisting the requesting agency?
- Do MOUs or agreements exist (or need to be developed) in order to reimburse other agencies for all associated costs?
- If law enforcement personnel are requested, are jurisdictional issues covered by an MOU (or need to be developed) for other agencies to assist?
- If dispatch/coordination system assistance is desired by the requesting agency, will overtime authorization(s) be completed to reimburse overtime salaries for support personnel at the State Coordination Center, SACC, and Fire Cache level?
- Are there any constraints on the use and reimbursement of detailers to process resource requests at the State Coordination Center and SACC level?
- Is there any "value added" to the mobilization and demobilization process by dispatch/coordination system involvement? (For example, will the dispatch/coordination system be tasked with networking incident requests, or will the resource order process be used only to document and pass information on "name requested" resources after the requesting agency/unit locates and identifies these resources?)

SCOPE OF OPERATION

GENERAL

The Southern Area Mobilization Guide is a supplement to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide. The Southern Area Mobilization Guide is an extension of Agency Manual/Handbook Systems, Directories, and Instruction Memorandums relating to logistical support operations to provide dispatching policies, procedures, and organization. The guide includes a directory and a catalog of personnel, equipment, aircraft, and supplies in order to assist in obtaining timely and cost-effective incident support services.

NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (NRF)

Cooperating Agencies of the Southern Area will function in a supportive role in coordinating responses to emergencies and incidents of a nature other than wildfire. An agency may take the lead role for purposes of expediency in life-or-death situations or when Non-Government Emergency Service Programs are not capable of providing the service. Specific agency policies will provide direction to determine the availability of resources, in conjunction with existing programs, to support and cooperate with local authorities and organizations.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Due to the unique ability of the wildland fire community to respond to disasters, SACC may be tasked by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for international assistance. This may be in the form of personnel, equipment, supplies, or aircraft. Requests for foreign disaster assistance will be made by the Forest Service Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP) Manager to the Forest Service Southern Region Operations Officer, who will determine availability of the resource(s) requested. In some cases, the requests for assistance will be made through NICC to SACC.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

- Provide a Center for information concerning the overall incident situation in the Southern Area, including but not limited to fire danger, number of fires, and number of personnel and equipment committed to fires.
- Anticipate needs and stay ahead of the logistics curve.
- Provide, a Predictive Services unit responsible for the situation reporting program, incident status summaries, weather data, resource status reports, fire activity forecasting, and the Southern Area Coordination Center website.
- Determine the amounts and locations of available overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, transportation, and supplies. Establish criteria and priorities for sharing available resources.
- Coordinate the movement of overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, and supplies from one State or Area of Federal Land Management Agencies and Cooperators to another within and outside the Southern Area. Provide coordination between other Geographic Areas concerning pre-suppression needs.
- Coordinate with Agency Directors of Fire and Aviation Management or designated alternates to determine priorities for overhead, crews, equipment, aircraft, and supplies when multiple fire situations make it difficult to fill all requests for assistance.
- Keep federal land management agency heads, supervisors, chief's office(s), NICC, and cooperators informed of current and critical fire situations and major fires. Establish needs and priorities for resource allocation.
- Develop and maintain an accurate summary of crew assignments to fire suppression and prescribed fire projects so that crew use can be weighed against the desired delivery time and transportation efficiency.
- Provide liaison between ordering units and fire cache on supply needs and delivery methods.
- Monitor dispatch operations for compliance in meeting dispatch standards.
- Participate in incident closeouts and in the analysis of coordination and dispatch activities.
- Provide leadership in dispatch training programs to facilitate current dispatch and coordination needs.
- Publish tours of duty and staffing levels for the various suppression resources in Specific Action and Readiness Guide(s). Negotiate requested deviations from planned actions with host State Coordination Centers.
- Determine needs to preposition suppression resources at the most strategic locations and initiate moves through host State Coordination Centers.
- Assist during State compact activity.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE COORDINATION CENTERS

- Most state centers are responsible for initial attack dispatch. Some centers may not actually engage in initial attack activities however, they will be responsible for establishing standards and monitoring initial attack activity
- Responsible for mobilizing and dispatching of resources within their area of jurisdiction.
- Facilitate adequate staffing of all incidents through the State Coordination Center's dispatch system.
- Inform the Southern Area Coordination Center of any anticipated critical fire situations, fire activity, or all-risk activity that may exhaust the State Center's capabilities.
- Maintain a written or electronic log of all suppression activities up until the time the formal Resource Order dispatch begins, and continue the log on essential items not covered by Resource Order.
- Maintain a record of the locations of personnel, equipment, and aircraft during pre-suppression activities.
- Provide Southern Area Coordination Center with incident status information on all large fires, or small fires that threaten life or property on a daily basis.
- Determine needs for prepositioning resources or for deviations from published staffing levels. Additional shared resources which are needed will be requested on a Resource Order through normal dispatch channels with the concurrence of the Southern Area Coordination Center.
- Request resources from one State Coordination Center's jurisdiction to another (unless covered by an MOU or initial attack agreement) through the neighborhood concept or through SACC.

SACC OFFICE STAFFING

The SACC Center Manager will ensure SACC is staffed to meet the needs of the field units. During periods of incident activity, SACC will extend the staffing hours as determined by the SACC Center Manager. Responses to after-hours activity will be provided by an on-call Coordinator.

MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

The Southern Area Coordination Center provides for the cost-effective mobilization and demobilization of resources between the State Coordination Centers and the National Interagency Coordination Center.

SAFETY – SAFETY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

All dispatchers, fire managers, and incident personnel must recognize their responsibility for safety in emergency operations, and must perform their duties accordingly. They will adhere to established policies and procedures, and will demonstrate a "Safety First" attitude.

WORK/REST GUIDELINES, AND LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

INCIDENT OPERATIONS DRIVING

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

INITIAL ATTACK DEFINITION

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

A standard Resource Order numbering system will be used. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10. Resource order numbering will be established on a calendar year basis to conform to the National Interagency Coordination Center standards for Resource Order Numbering in order to facilitate statistical and data gathering. Resource order numbering in the Southern Area will commence at the beginning of each calendar year.

Any resource committed on a current fiscal year (FY) resource order will be reassigned to next fiscal year's resource order. Any resource being ordered after **September 30th** will be ordered on a new resource order for the new fiscal year. (Note: Suppression and all-hazard incidents resources are exempt.)

Any resource committed on a current calendar year (CY) suppression and/or all-hazard resource orders will remain assigned into the next calendar year. After all resources are released, no anticipation of new resource orders and the incident isn't under litigation, you may close the incident for future ROSS archiving.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PRIORITIES

The Southern Area Coordinating Group has established priorities for resource mobilization. The priorities are as follows:

1. Resources represented by the Southern Area Coordinating Group (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Southern States). Each of these agencies has equal priority. State Coordination Centers should devise a fair and equitable manner to utilize these resources. This can be accomplished by using a rotation established pre-season, "first-available/first-mobilized", or other method(s).
2. Administratively Determined (AD) hires. This refers to resources that are not employees of the agencies represented by the Southern Area Coordinating Group. This does not include state employees that are paid utilizing the AD Pay Plan.
3. Contractors
4. Fire Departments

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

SOUTHERN AREA RESOURCES

- Mobile Cache Support Vans
- Portable Retardant Bases
- Type 2 Incident Management Teams
- Buying Teams
- Prevention Teams
- Lead Planes
- Type 3 Helicopters

NOTIFICATION OF COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

UNABLE TO FILL (UTF) PROCEDURE

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

STANDARD CUBES, WEIGHT AND GEAR POLICY FOR ALL PERSONNEL, EXCLUDING SMOKEJUMPERS, AND HELICOPTER MANAGERS

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

The National Weather Service will distribute morning fire weather forecasts, afternoon updates, fire weather watches, and red flag warnings as specified in their annual operating plan.

ORDERING CHANNELS/COST CODING

All agencies have designated ordering procedures for incident and Wildland fire support and services. These established ordering channels provide for: rapid movement of requests, agency review, efficient utilization of resources and cost effectiveness. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

The Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC), Atlanta, Georgia, is the focal point for internal and external requests for all federal and state land management agencies within Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also included are federal agencies east of the 100th Meridian within the States of Texas and Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture – Forestry Service and Texas Forest Service are represented state-wide by the Southern Area Coordination Center.

STATE COORDINATION CENTERS

The twelve State Coordination Centers are responsible for coordinating the mobilization of resources within their areas of jurisdiction and the collection and dissemination of intelligence information on incidents within their states. The State Coordination Centers serve as the link between SACC and individual Forests, Parks, Refuges, Tribes, BIA Agencies, and State units.

ORDERING PROCEDURES**INCIDENT RELATED ORDERING**

Initial Attack Dispatching: During the initial response to an incident, a State Coordination Center may utilize the resources under their jurisdiction within the state and/or the closest resources in an adjacent state, utilizing the “neighborhood concept.” State Coordination Centers utilizing initial attack resources with adjacent State Centers must have written agreements in place.

Southern Area Neighborhood Concept: Units may place orders for initial attack (Type 3, 4, and 5 incidents) or reinforcement items to support an incident on their own unit from adjoining/neighborhood border Units.

For extended attack, Type 2 crews, individual overhead, engines, and other similar resources may be requested from adjoining cooperating units. Orders may be placed according to the “neighborhood” concept as follows:

UNIT	MAY ORDER FROM
AL-AIC	FIC, GIC, MIC, TNC
AR-AOC	LIC, MIC, TIC, TNC
FL-FIC	AIC, GIC
GA-GIC	AIC, FIC, NCC, SCC, TNC
KY-KIC	TNC, VIC
LA-LIC	AOC, MIC, TIC
MS-MIC	AIC, AOC, LIC, TNC
NC-NCC	GIC, SCC, TNC, VIC
SC-SCC	GIC, NCC
TN-TNC	AIC, AOC, GIC, KIC, MIC, NCC, VIC
TX-TIC	AOC, LIC
VA-VIC	KIC, NCC, TNC

The SACC Center Manager may suspend the Southern Area Neighborhood and/or GACC Boundary Adjacent Unit ordering authority when the total resource availability may not support current GACC activity. This most often occurs during Southern Area Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, but may occur at any Preparedness Level due to complexity of activity.

When a Unit is unable to obtain sufficient resources to support an incident on their own or from their neighboring Units, the order will be placed with the Southern Area Coordination Center. When state compacts are activated, the ordering state will communicate the order to SACC. Local operating plans with cooperating units should address who will place and/or receive orders for support.

State Coordination Centers may order Agency and/or Exclusive Use aircraft during Initial Attack utilizing the Southern Area Neighborhood Concept only if they have exhausted all aircraft resources within their dispatch jurisdiction. All other orders must be placed with SACC when a State Coordination Center cannot fill within their dispatch jurisdiction which include Call-When- Needed resources, DOI's On Call Aircraft Contracts & Source List resources, Prescribed Burn projects, All Hazard Incidents, etc. State Coordination Centers will notify SACC Aircraft Desk when an aircraft resource status changes; i.e. committed, out-of-service, unavailable, available-local, available-GACC or available-national.

Orders for National and Regional resources to include interagency hotshot crews, radio systems, etc., will be placed through SACC.

SACC shall notify the requesting state when a needed resource is not available within the Southern Area and the order is being prepared for placement with NICC. The requesting State Coordination Center shall then have the option to cancel or modify the resource order.

SACC shall keep all State Coordination Centers alerted to possible shortages of firefighting resources nationally, as well as within the Southern Area. This will be accomplished during the conference call in Preparedness Levels 4 and 5.

NON-WILDLAND FIRE RELATED ORDERING

SACC will accept requests for non-suppression incidents (i.e., flood, hurricane, tornados, homeland defense, etc.). Southern Area Units will forward all detail requests for planning and preparedness, including severity requests, to SACC through the respective State Coordination Centers for details greater than 14 days. Ordering information will

be documented on the detail request form. This form is a supplemental information worksheet to the standard resource order form. All pertinent items on the form should be completed. This will give the prospective detailer complete information on the requesting unit's needs. All persons filling details from the Southern Area should have access to the completed detail request form before travel is commenced.

Orders will be placed through normal dispatch channels.

Preposition assignments may be prearranged between units. No movement will be initiated until the request is placed through the dispatch systems, stating request has been prearranged and with which unit.

When the sending and receiving units are confirmed, SACC will request these units work directly with each other to address and resolve administrative and personnel matters.

Travel itineraries will be relayed through normal dispatch channels.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

It is the responsibility of the Fire Manager for the prescribed fire project to arrange for and obtain their resources.

However, SACC will assist the Prescribed Fire Manager's host State Coordination Center in providing a resource, utilizing the dispatch ordering channels, as needed, if difficulty in finding a specific resource arises.

COST CODING

All fire suppression orders are to have an Interagency FireCode assigned by the ordering office. For detailed agency information, Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING (NMAC) GROUP ORGANIZATION

During National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, the National MAC Group is activated and twice daily briefings are conducted to establish national priorities and provide national leadership and direction to wildland fire activities. For a list of current members, refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

SOUTHERN AREA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (MAC)

ACTIVATING THE MAC GROUP

At Preparedness Level 3 or when significant commitment of resources is occurring, the Southern Area Coordinating Group and Southern Area Center Manager will discuss and consider the need to activate the MAC Group and supporting organization. The MAC group is comprised of top management level personnel from those agencies who have jurisdictional responsibility and those that are heavily supporting the effort or may be significantly impacted by lack of local resources. Each of the members of the MAC Group should have delegated authority from their respective Agency Administrators for the following responsibilities:

Prioritize incidents.

Ensure that the collective situation and resource situation status is provided and current, by agency.

- Anticipate future resource needs

ROLE OF THE MAC GROUP

Activation of a MAC group improves interagency coordination at top management levels and provides for allocation and timely commitment of multi-agency emergency resources on any incident. Participation by multiple agencies in the MAC effort will improve:

- Overall situation status information.
- Incident priority determination.
- State and Federal disaster coordination.
- Political interfaces.
- Overall coordinated information provided to the media and agencies involved.
- Prioritization of incidents and critical resources

DUTIES OF MAC GROUP COORDINATOR

The MAC Group Coordinator serves as a facilitator for multi-agency decision making. The position provides expertise in obtaining and summarizing information that affects key multi-agency decisions at the agency administrator level. Duties and functions of the position are to:

- Determines need for support staff including administrative assistance, Aviation Coordinator, Fire Behavior Analyst, etc.
- Coordinates with the SACC Predictive Services section to ensure that required information is being provided to the MAC Group within the time frames specified.
- Arranges for and manages the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out MAC Group functions.
- Assists the MAC Group decision process by facilitating the group's conference calls and/or meetings according to established SAMAC protocol.
- Reviews ICS-209, SIT Reports, WFDSS for each incident in order to complete the Priority Decision Matrix and the Incident Prioritization Worksheet.
- Documents the MAC Group's decisions and coordinates with the SACC Manager (if the Center Manager/MAC Coordinator functions have been separated) to ensure their prompt implementation.
- Disseminates conference call/meeting notes, incident priority lists, NMAC correspondence and other MAC Group related information.

INCIDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Agency administrators are responsible for emergency operation. They provide general guidance and interact with the MAC Group. Typically some or all of their responsibilities are delegated to personnel who can devote more complete attention to the situation. Often the unit Fire Management Officer (FMO) has responsibility for the Incident Support Organization (ISO) and as a representative on the local MAC Group. Routine initial attack and other dispatch functions continue, but are separated from the ISO. Each office shall maintain a dispatch operating plan which will include authorities, roles, and responsibilities for expanded dispatch personnel, procedures for routine and emergency operations, the resource order process, job aids and references for the integration of buying teams and sources of supply.

The ISO works to provide logistical support to the host agency and the incident(s). The ISO is implemented to address the increased business volume and to supplement established organizations. Staffing positions in an ISO are based on need rather than preconceived organizational chart.

The ISO reports to the agency administrator and is composed of functional branches, Expanded Dispatch, Technical Support, and Administrative Support. The functional branches coordinate and cooperate to support the host agency and the incident(s).

EXPANDED DISPATCH

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

TRANSITION CHECKLIST

The following is a simple checklist for the transition from initial attack dispatching to major incident support:

State Coordination Center Responsibilities:

- Order Interagency Incident Management Team/All-Hazard Management Team and related support items (cache van, radios systems, etc.), as appropriate.
- Request a Temporary Flight Restriction – If required, request special VHF radio frequencies from SACC, as needed.
- Implement a preplanned transition to an incident support organization. Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.
- Implement agency organization commensurate to the situation, including Safety Officer(s), Law Enforcement Officer(s), Information Officer(s), Hazardous Materials Coordinator(s), etc.
- Designate agency person as incident information focal point at the unit level.
- Notify cooperating agencies.

SACC Responsibilities:

- Notify appropriate agency management personnel of the situation.
- Notify on-call IC of the situation. When Incident Management Team or All-Hazard Management Team is ordered, ensure related support items (cache van, radios systems, etc.) are considered and requested by the ordering unit.
- Order additional staffing for expanded operations and any local logistical support.
- Consider needs for staging area and personnel.
- Request that Public Affairs Officer is designated as incident information focal point at the regional level (Forest Service incidents only).
- Ensure an Agency Official is designated as a Technical Liaison when the Region is notified that Departmental or Administrative Officials will be visiting an incident (Forest Service incidents only).

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

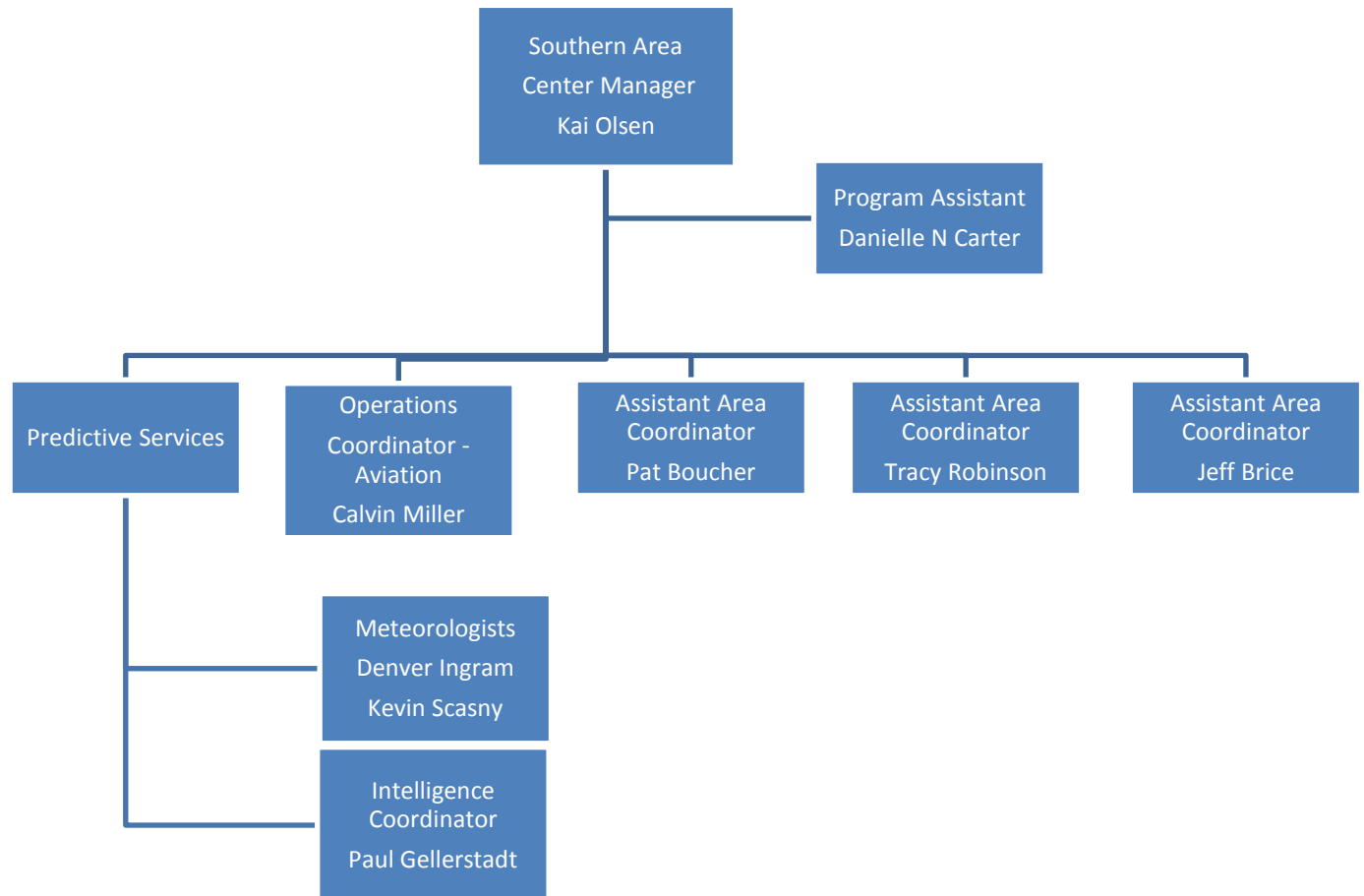
COMPLEXITY

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

EXAMPLE ORGANIZATIONS

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

SOUTHERN AREA COORDINATION CENTER ORGANIZATION



NATIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Refer to National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

WHY PREPAREDNESS LEVELS ARE ESTABLISHED

Refer to National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

SOUTHERN AREA PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

The Southern Area Preparedness levels have been established to:

- Identify the level of wildland fire or prescribed fire activity, all-hazard activity, severity, and resource commitment within the Southern Area
- To identify actions to be taken by Agency Administrators, Center Manager, Unit Administrators, and State Coordination Centers to assure an appropriate level of preparedness/readiness for the existing and potential situation.
- To modify or curtail Area or Unit fire management activities when essential to assure preparedness and response capabilities for situations within the Southern Area.

GENERAL

The SACC Center Manager will monitor the Area wildland fire and all-hazard situation and determine Preparedness Levels. Preparedness Level 4 and above will be set after consultation with the Southern Area MAC Group. In declaring the Preparedness Level, the following will be considered:

- Current and forecasted weather
- Severity and number of recent fires
- Resources currently committed
- Heavy risk periods
- Severity and/or complexity of all-hazard incidents

Area Preparedness Levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities in a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This ensures that sufficient resources will be available for Area or National situations. However, Area Preparedness Levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels that identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity and resource commitment nationally.

Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the Preparedness Levels. The following section describes applicable circumstances and procedures to be followed.

EXCEPTIONS

Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management direction/considerations at higher National Preparedness Levels may constrain activities in the Southern Area, where no incident activity may be occurring.

In instances where the Southern Area may be requested to support other Geographical Areas with its resources, the SACC Center Manager and MAC Group may increase the Area PL and take the appropriate actions. The Southern Area PL may differ from the National PL, based upon the availability of resources within the Southern Area and potential and/or severity of incidents.

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL DESCRIPTION

The following specify actions that the Southern Area will take in providing incident support capability suited to the hazard, risk, and situation complexity. Each action specified under a PL is in addition to all actions taken in the preceding PL.

ALL PREPAREDNESS LEVELS	
Description: The following activities apply regardless of the level of incident activity.	
Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. Report wildland and prescribed fire activity via the Interagency Situation Report program as directed by SACC.	Unit Administrator

B. For all incidents that meet the large fire criteria, prepare an ICS-209 and submit via FAMWEB system. (National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 60)	Incident Commander/State Coordination Center
C. Provide SACC with timely intelligence on existing and emerging situations.	State Coordination Center
D. Via the interagency Situation Report program, provide a report of area fire activity.	State Coordination Center
E. Staff State Coordination Centers commensurate with the level of incident activity and resource order workload not only at the local level but also the Southern Area and National activity levels. This will range from providing an afterhours contact to staffing the center on an extended shift basis.	Fire Management Officer

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 1

Description: Little or no activity area wide. Most units have low to moderate fire danger and probability of incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is low. Little or no commitment of Southern Area Resources. Units are handling all incidents without outside resources.

Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. SACC staffed as appropriate. Outside of business hours, a Duty Coordinator will be on-call.	Center Manager
B. Monitor daily situation reports.	Center Manager
C. Develop and maintain Seasonal Severity Chart	SACC Predictive Services
D. Hotshot crews are in training.	Administrative Units
E. Initiate Team Rotation availability calls	SACC

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 2

Description: Moderate activity. One or two units with Moderate to High fire danger or all-hazard involvement and possibility of incident occurrence. Potential for escaped fires is low. Little or no commitment of Southern Area Resources in Area, although national mobilization may be occurring.

Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. SACC staffed 0800-1800 seven days a week (or Duty Coordinator on call).	Center Manager
B. Consider severity needs.	Area Administrators
C. Coordinate the issuance of press releases that highlight interagency current conditions and a brief outlook.	Area Administrators

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 3

Description: Several units experiencing High or greater fire danger and/or two or more units experiencing incidents, either fire or all-hazard or national mobilization requiring a major commitment of Southern Area resources. Potential exists for fires becoming Class D or larger. Possible hurricane strike in area within 72 hours. One Incident Management Team is on standby or committed to an incident, or 50 percent of Area crews or initial attack resources are committed.

Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. SACC staffed 0800-1800 seven days a week. Hours may be extended, according to activity occurring. Consider seven day staffing of Predictive Services unit with FBAN support.	Center Manager
B. Ensure management systems provide sufficient support to keep computers and telecommunications fully operational.	Center Manager
C. Maintain two airtankers within the Southern Area as appropriate.	Center Manager
D. Consider daily/weekly conference calls with State Coordination Centers.	Center Manager
E. Consider need for daily/weekly Aviation calls.	Center Manager
F. Coordinate pre-positioning of resources as may be appropriate.	Center Manager/MAC

G. Ensure incident qualified personnel are available for assignment.	Agency Administrator
H. Hotshot crews are available for 2-hour dispatch.	Unit Administrator
I. Consider opening pre-identified Mobilization Centers/Staging Areas as appropriate.	Center Manager

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 4

Description: Several units are experiencing Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. Four or more units experiencing fire or all-hazard incidents requiring a commitment of Southern Area resources. High number of fires escaping initial attack. No break in the predicted weather is expected for at least 48-72 hours. Additional resources are being mobilized from outside the area. More than two Incident Management Teams are committed in the Southern Area.

Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. Allocation of resources according to priorities set by the MAC Group.	Center Manager
B. Open pre-identified Mobilization Centers/Staging Areas as appropriate.	Center Manager
C. Activate Interagency Public Information Group	Center Manager
D. Activate a Fire Behavior Center at SACC as needed based upon need and severity.	Center Manager
E. Consider prepositioning Incident Management Teams.	MAC
F. Consider prepositioning Helicopter Modules, Safety Officers, and Type 3 Incident Commanders.	Center Manager/MAC
G. Consider activation of Aviation Safety Assistant Teams	MAC

PREPAREDNESS LEVEL 5

Description: Several units are experiencing major fire or all-hazard incidents which have the potential to exhaust all resources, while numerous new fires or resource commitments continue to occur. Most, if not all, the resources within the Area are committed. As resources become available, they are immediately reassigned to other incidents. The majority of support is coming from outside the Area. No break in the weather is predicted for at least 72 hours.

Management Direction/Consideration	Responsibility
A. Intensify coordination efforts with all wildland fire protection agencies.	MAC
B. All State Coordination Centers staffed 7 days a week to provide coverage/service for affected units.	Fire Management Officers
C. Assess risk and impacts of the proposed actions and discuss with the National MAC Group.	MAC

NATIONAL MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATING GROUP (MAC) DECISIONS

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES FOR MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10.

ORDERING BETWEEN LOCAL OFFICES ACROSS GACC BOUNDARIES

Local centers with adjacent units to one another may engage in resource ordering across GACC boundaries. The sending GACC must grant approval to the local center before any National type resources are sent across GACC boundaries. If National type resources are being ordered, the local center ordering the National resource(s) must also inform their GACC. Depending on the National Preparedness Level and or NMAC priorities, the NICC may also require approval. Resources sent across GACC boundaries cannot be reassigned without prior approval from the sending GACC and local unit.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS**Canada Support - Policy**

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Canada Support – Operational Guidelines

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Australia Support - Policy

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Australia Support – Operational Guidelines

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

New Zealand Support - Policy

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

New Zealand Support – Operational Guidelines

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Mexico Support - Policy

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

Mexico Support – Operational Guidelines

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 10.

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS**Interagency Agreement for the Provision of Temporary Support During Wildland Firefighting Operations among the United States Department of Agriculture, and The United States Department of Defense**

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Interagency Agreement for Fire Management between the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior and the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Interagency Agreement for Meteorological and Other Technical Services between the United States Department of Interior, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Weather Service Land Management

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the United States Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation (Law Enforcement)

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

International Emergency Assistance Response Process – Operating Plan for USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Assistant Directorate – Resource Use & Protection, Office of Fire and Aviation Management, International

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Interagency Memorandum of Agreement between U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, and United States Army – Special Operations Command

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

SMOKEJUMPER AGREEMENT

Interagency Agreement between the U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, for the Joint Operation of Smokejumper Resources

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM AGREEMENTS

Agreement between North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Forest Resources, and Forest Service – United States Department of Agriculture

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Agreement between California – Department of Forestry, the National Guard, and USDA - Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.

Collection Agreement between Wyoming State Forestry Division and the Forest Service – United States Department of Agriculture

Refer to the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.